CBS REPORTS

"The Guns of Autumn"

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With CBS News Correspondent Dan Rather

PRODUCED BY CBS NEWS

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EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: Perry Wolff

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HUNTER: What do I like about it? Well, it-- to be out in the-- in the woods, to be away from the everyday work. I guess getting back to nature, that's about the biggest part of it.

HUNTER: I think a person that doesn't hunt is missing-- missing an awful lot in life, really. The outdoors, the scenery, never knowing what to expect when you do go in the woods or something like this, and just-- just to be able to walk freely in the woods with a gun. Just like a guy that likes to pheasant hunt. You give him a shotgun and you give him a beautiful cornfield, and, man, there's just something about it.

HUNTER: I look at this as kind of a-- of a theatrical stage in the out-of-doors, and that I'm just one of a cast of characters that's-- that's acting upon it.

HUNTER: Figure Davy Crockett done it, really, and Daniel Boone. I don't see why we couldn't.

HUNTER: It's heritage, as far as I'm concerned. I-- I believe that hunting is bred into you.

HUNTER: The kids like to hunt. I think it gets in your blood, I really do, because you-- you start hunting, you get out, you-- you get to where you enjoy being outside.

HUNTER: I've hunted many times, and-- and looked at an animal through the scope, put it down - the game's been won. That's the moment when you've found that you did win the game. Sometimes I shoot.

[Gunshots. . .dogs barking]

[ANNOUNCEMENTS]

ANNOUNCER: CBS REPORTS: "The Guns of Autumn" continues with CBS News Correspondent Dan Rather.

DAN RATHER: Copper Harbor sits beside Lake Superior at the northern tip of Michigan. It is a resort community known for its natural beauty, its climate and its garbage dump. Each summer and fall the tourists come here in cars and campers. They park by the dump, and wait.

[Dogs barking]

RATHER: What they are waiting for is the sight of a black bear. The black bear can be dangerous, but he is not known for his ferocity. He is known for his insatiable appetite. That's what brings the bears and the tourists to this place, listed in the travel brochures as the "Bear Pit".

RATHER: CBS News Producer Irv Drasnin was there.

IRV DRASNIN: Tourists are not the only ones who come here, not at this time of year. Mike Sly is here to put up "No Hunting" signs, though he has no authority to do so. He works as a bartender in Copper Harbor.

The bears show up here regularly to eat?

MIKE SLY: Yeah, every night. Sometimes during the day, sometimes during the morning. Most of the night they're all through here. As many as a dozen bears out here at times.

DRASNIN: And what happens on the first day of the bear hunting season?

SLY: It's sort of like a small war out here. Guys come out here-- Last year they came out here in lounge chairs drinking beer and just sitting back and waiting for the bears to come in the dump.

DRASNIN: And what happened when the bears showed up?

SLY: They'd shoot them.

DRASNIN: Who-- What kind of people come to the dump to shoot bears?

SLY: Oh, a lot of people from Detroit come up, and Chicago. City people that don't know the woods too well or know how to hunt. They just see a bear or something like that, and figure this is the best place to hunt, this is where they're at.

DRASNIN: Aren't these bears that come out here almost tame?

SLY: Yeah, well, they'll-- they'll eat out of your hand, some of them will. They'll come up to you. They're not afraid of you.

DRASNIN: Fear has given way to habit, especially in the weeks before hibernation when the bear is feeding for winter. For him, the dump is an irresistible feast. It is irresistible, too, for the hunter. The man in the green sweater is Leon Roney, a friend of Mike Sly's from down state. This was the day before the bear hunting season opened.

SLY: People feed them all year long by hand and throw stuff to them and take pictures of them and just being around, and why should the bear be worried? Even on opening day he hears a lot of noise going on, but he still doesn't understand or comprehend what's going on around him, so he feels pretty secure.

DRASNIN: The hunter is an opportunist, and when the season opens the opportunity is here. It is not against the law in Michigan to shoot bears in a dump. The season opens at six o'clock on a September morning.

[Gunfire]

Leon Roney did not intend to shoot a bear this way, but he had found none in the woods. It was legal, and there it was.

[Gunfire]

SLY: Yeah, he's out. It's really rough bear hunting, isn't it?

LEON RONEY: Think I should've?

SLY: Put one into his head, right in the ear.

RONEY: Well, I want to mount that.

SLY: Put it in his throat then, Christ! Right below the ear in the neck.

RONEY: Will that ruin the mount on the head?

SLY: No.

RONEY: Whereabouts would-- would be a good spot, Mike?

SLY: Right below the ear in the neck.

RONEY: That won't hurt the head mount?

SLY: No.

RONEY: Huh?

SLY: No.

[Gunshot]

RONEY: I don't know. This-- It's not-- I-- I thought it'd be more exciting than this, and it probably would have if I would have been out where, you know, all by myself, instead of so many people around, you know, when they come out. I would have probably felt better.

DRASNIN: Every animal killed must be gutted. For one thing, for those hunters who like the meat, gutting helps prevent spoilage. Another thing - it makes the bear easier to carry out of the woods.

RONEY: I figured I'm-- if I didn't get it, somebody else would have, so-- especially when that conservation guy says you can shoot them any time you want to.

DRASNIN: And he said it was all right to go ahead and shoot?

RONEY: All right, go ahead and shoot them - after these guys made pets out of them!

DRASNIN: And he said go ahead and shoot, even if they're in the dump?

RONEY: Yep, go ahead and shoot them. Probably wouldn't of had any bear left in here if it would have been up to that conservation man.

WOMAN: Well, I don't like it. He said he's only about two. A really young bear cub like--

DRASNIN: Look like the bear you were feeding yesterday?

WOMAN: I'd say it was. It was awful young, too. It kept coming in here.

SLY: . . .drag him out.

WOMAN: We fed it cookies and marshmallows for about, well, quite a while.

RONEY: I wasn't really thrilled over it.

WOMAN: I know.

RONEY: I'm glad I got the hide, though, but I-- not for killing it, I wasn't.

DRASNIN: Shooting bears at a dump is a cause of some controversy in Copper Harbor, but Mike Sly alone could not stop it. And despite their promises, none of the other townspeople had shown up to help him. To the hunters who come here, a dump bear is fair game, no matter how much the local residents may object.

What do they say to you?

HUNTER: They ask you to read the signs.

HUNTER: They ask if you feel nice and proud you shot a-- a little bear, you know, and you feel good--

HUNTER: Of course, I kind of have to laugh at that, because I noticed the people coming in here that do live up here and dump, if the bear is supposedly so tame, and if they're out here, I don't see anybody stepping out. They're strictly all locked up in the cars, you know, if they're such tame bears, you know, and they're-- everybody feeds them and you can go up and pet them.

HUNTER: If they didn't want us to hunt there, all they have to do is stop dumping their garbage.

HUNTER: That's right. They-- They're, you know--

HUNTER: Well, it's same thing as fishing. What do you do? You bait your hook. Same principle.

HUNTER: Same principle.

HUNTER: What the heck.

RATHER: Many hunters will use a lure to bring the animal to the gun: soap with the scent of a female in heat; the manufactured or recorded call of a bird or animal. The use of bait - either the hunter's own or at dumps - is one way to get a bear. It is not the only way. You don't have to travel far in Michigan to find the hunter's camp of Doug Mummert.

DOUG MUMMERT: It says here: From Sunday to Friday we never jumped a bear. Roughest six days of bear hunting we ever had.

RATHER: His diary is a chronicle of the 38 bears taken by his men and their dogs during the past eight years.

MUMMERT [reading]: I guess this was a good omen, as Roger and Elmo got us a bear jump by 7:15 Saturday morning. By the time I got to them, the bear had all the dogs but Old Sarge drove off. I shot at her-- at her at about 20 feet with my .22 pistol. She fell down on the third shot, but got up, and I shot her twice more in the back. Altogether, I shot at her 12 times. Hit her four or five times, but couldn't seem to stop her. Don Sotherby came in and finished her as she'd stopped underneath a tree to fight.

That's the end of the story.

DRASNIN: Now that's not just one of those hunting stories, that's a true story, I take it?

MUMMERT: Yeah.

DRASNIN: Well, what do you do if you've been up here three or four or five days and you haven't managed to land a bear?

MUMMERT: I guess it depends on the mood we're in, but first we usually call for a community swim, and that west branch of that Escanaba is cold. So, we're sacrificing our bodies a little bit there, and--

DRASNIN: And if that doesn't work?

MUMMERT: Then we have a big campfire talk, and usually we get into the juice a little bit. [Laughing]

DRASNIN: No hunt in the wilderness is a sure thing, but the odds have changed over the past few hundred years, along with the reasons for doing it.

Why-- Why do you come up here every year? Why are you here this week?

MUMMERT: For the sport of the hunt, the fellowship of the-- of the group. It's just pure entertainment for me. I get just as much thrill out of seeing the reaction of a person that's killing his-- or that's harvesting his first bear as-- I believe I get more thrill out of it than I would if I was to-- to harvest another one.

DRASNIN: Is hunting something that you want to pass on to your sons? Will your sons be hunters?

GEORGE MATUSEK: My sons are hunters. Matter of fact, two of my boys-- Charlie killed his first bear with the group here when he was 14, and my son Kenneth got his when he was 15. And they've been hunting-- They're not here on this trip, but they'll be up in October. They've been hunting, basically-- they've been with us since they've been nine years old. We've got one around here that's three years old. He's really starting out young. And then we've got this one here. How old are you?

BEN MUMMERT: Twelve.

MATUSEK: He's 12, see.

DRASNIN: What-- What about your son, Doug? Do you expect him to be a hunter?

MUMMERT: Yes, I-- I'd just be very unhappy if he won't be, and I-- I think he will. He-- He-- I think he gets a lot of enjoyment out of it. Don't you, Ben?

BEN: Yes.

MUMMERT: By going hunting?

MATUSEK: It's hard to explain. It's just something that's right there. It's in you. And it isn't necessarily the kill. Like Doug said, you-- after a while you kill so much you get-- you get past the kill point, but you still-- like I enjoy seeing my children kill and take game.

DRASNIN: You look forward to getting your first bear?

BEN: Yeah.

DRASNIN: Can you-- Can you fire a rifle?

BEN: Yeah.

DRASNIN: I saw you with a bird today. You got a bird today?

BEN: Yeah.

DRASNIN: That wasn't your first bird, though.

BEN: Yes.

DRASNIN: It was?

BEN: Shot at them, but the first one I hit.

MUMMERT: What-- Did-- I heard say that that double-barrel went off both barrels to once?

DRASNIN: Did it hurt a little?

HUNTER: Tell them where you hit it, though, Ben.

BEN: Right in the head.

[Banjo music]

DRASNIN: There are no alarm clocks to wake the hunter. A tape player does that, to the reveille of Flatt and Scruggs.

[Banjo music]

MUMMERT: You know, that was made, though, since we've had-- or before we had rain. You can see the rain drops in this track. By God, those guys are right on it, ain't they? So anyways, somebody's got to check from Mimonie's Road south toward Scali.

[Country fiddle-banjo music]

BEN: You guys made that one. [Laughter]

DRASNIN: Away from a dump, the black bear doesn't come to you. You have to go looking for him.

MUMMERT: . . .about the same size we had. And where's the other one?

DRASNIN: The roads have been dragged clean the night before, so that any track found is a new one.

DUTCH: . . .looks to me like about the same size.

MUMMERT: Going the same way?

DUTCH: Down-- Yeah, both going the same crossing. You can't miss the track coming back across here.

[Dogs barking]

DRASNIN: This is sport in America, and in every sport there is a strategy. The first thing is to find a track fresh enough for the hounds to follow.

MUMMERT: Hell, he can smell her already, Don. [Dogs barking] Brand, shut up! Well, what'd you find on that track, Lawrence? Any more-- Anything more definite?

LAWRENCE [on radio]: No, we have-- I think it's the same bear, and south of Mimonie's Road. . . He's a small bear.

MUMMERT: And where-- how far up are you, Lawrence?

LAWRENCE [on radio]: A tar paper shack right now is the last track we saw. He come on the road, then off again - going south. The other tracks were coming north. Don's on her trail, and they're south of him.

MUMMERT [on radio]: Ten-four, ten-four. That's what I wanted to find out.

HUNTER: We are on the old railroad grade. We're in about half-a-mile north of the main road there, and we can hear them off to the east of us, but not too plainly.

DRASNIN: Man's needs have altered the hunt. So has his technology. There are 20 or 30 men spread out along these roads and trails, moving by car into position, reporting by radio the progress of the dogs and of the bear.

RADIO VOICE: Somebody should be on that main road there, headed almost south.

RADIO VOICE: Ten-four, Don. This is Gary. We're all here now.

RADIO VOICE: He went in from. . . [Indistinct phrase]

RADIO VOICE: Ten-four.

MUMMERT: Got you, Switz.

DRASNIN: Word has come over the radio: a hunter has seen a bear but missed his shot.

[Indistinct radio voices: ". . .ten-four". . ."Berger. . .do you read me?". . ."Bill is here. Bill just came out here.". . ."Yeah, we got a big crowd. . ."]

Other men guard the perimeter. Mummert alone has the stamina to stay with the hounds in their pursuit.

MUMMERT: Get honey, get honey!

DON [on radio]: Doug, you copy?

MUMMERT: Go ahead, Don. Go ahead, Don.

DRASNIN: He has been in and out of the woods for almost two hours. The sound of the hounds is unmistakable now. They have a bear.

MUMMERT: Crowley, come way east, almost to Bert Phyllis's Road.

RADIO VOICE: To my right, straight east to the farmhouse.

MUMMERT [running, talking over radio]: West of the farmhouse. Northwest. Here Brand! Here Brand, here Brand, here Brand! Come on, Brand!

[Dogs barking]

DRASNIN: In his final sprint, Mummert is not alone. Everyone - men, women and children - join the chase, and the rule of the camp is that whoever gets there first gets the bear.

[Country guitar-banjo music] [Laughter]

MUMMERT: What do you think, man? This is what it's all about, right here. We wouldn't have to take this bear, but we'd like to take this bear for our dogs. They-- They get some chewing. Keep them dogs barking under that tree!

HUNTER: Come on, Barney, get him, boy! Get him, Barney!

[Dogs barking]

MUMMERT: There's even Derrick, look at that! No, I think Dutch-- I think Dutch wants to take him, probably. He's the first guy here, and-- Wha-- Now, we got a bear that's getting restless up there, you guys, so let's watch what's going on. Gary, you get a hold of your gun. Get on that side, George. Is there anybody else coming with you?

[Dogs barking. . .gunfire. . .dogs barking]

That's a boy, Jock, watch--

[Gunshot]

Okay! Watch him, Jock, watch him!

BEN: Get him, Jock, get him! Get him, Jock!

HUNTER: No. Watch it, Jock.

HUNTER: No, you hold him. Give me the gun. Give him lots of leash, and just-- if the dog growls, pull him back.

HUNTER: That's a boy, Jock.

HUNTER: Come right through on his arm, there, and come on this side.

MUMMERT: Don't you think that-- that our dogs deserve to take that bear, get to chew on that bear? We get condemned a lot for shooting a bear out of a-- out of a tree, but after the miles we put on today, we feel that they deserve a chew.

HUNTER: That's where he got the paw, wasn't it, Ben?

DRASNIN: This was the first bear kill for Jock, a one-year-old pup. He got his chew, but he got to the bear too soon and was clawed.

HUNTER: . . .and he squatted right down to Doug here.

BEN: Can you turn over?

HUNTER: He's tired.

DRASNIN: A good hunting dog is carefully trained and valuable. When one is injured by the bear, the hunter is anxious that he will be no less aggressive next time, just smarter.

HUNTER: What do you say, Jock?

BEN: Got hit, Jock?

HUNTER: Jock's tired.

BEN: He's tired.

HUNTER: Where you going? Throw this over here. I'm talking to Paul.

[Other indistinct talk and cross talk]

RATHER: The technology of the hunt is something new. The psychology behind it has been passed down from another time, along with the initiation rite.

HUNTER: I didn't look at my compass or anything, and I didn't know the area. So, when I found-- heard the shots, I realized that I was way away from the hunt. . .

HUNTER: He just loped across the road real easy. . .

HUNTER: He told me it was about 50 yards.

HUNTER: No, he just-- [Laughing] Shoot, 50 yards! [Laughter]

HUNTER: I don't know how he missed it.

HUNTER: I-- I came out east. . .

HUNTER: When they started, I figured it was going to go straight west, in that ford swamp, and then it's coming south and coming south, and I thought. . .

RATHER: What has been achieved with modern weapons and trained dogs, with vehicles and two-way radios, is efficiency. The odds have changed - in favor of the hunter.

[Banjo music]

HUNTER: Oh, look at here! Look, he's going right up.

HUNTER: Hang him up there.

HUNTER: I told you I was in a hell of a lot better shape this year.

HUNTER: Watch that nail, George. You get hung on that, you won't be in good shape for long.

[Laughter]

RATHER: Man may no longer hunt of necessity, but the hunt and the ritual persist. It is a ceremony, and a celebration.

HUNTER: He's got this little white spot in his stomach, Dutch.

HUNTER: Yeah.

HUNTER: Okay, that's high enough.

[Country fiddle-banjo music]

HUNTER: I figure a bear isn't deserved unless he gets a good run.

HUNTER: You ready?

[Laughter. . .bantering]

RATHER: It is tradition in this camp that if a man misses a shot at the bear, he loses his shirttail.

[Laughter]

HUNTER: Got everything you wanted?

HUNTER: And then you tie that on your antenna.

RATHER: For the one who comes closest to guessing the bear's weight, still another prize.

WOMAN: I got. . .

YOUNGSTER: Probably all drained out.

HUNTER: Watch him drink out of it.

[Country banjo music]

ANNOUNCER: CBS REPORTS: "The Guns of Autumn" will continue after these announcements.

[ANNOUNCEMENTS]

RATHER: Autumn is when we feel closest to the land. Today, how we use the land and everything that lives on it is an issue in America. Often it is an issue of uncompromising passions.

Man has attacked the land in many ways: with bulldozers, he has pushed back the wilderness; with chemicals, he has polluted it. Once man lived close to nature; now he must seek it out. He does so by the millions, and millions do so as hunters.

It is more than a million years since man first hunted; 20,000 years since he first hunted on this continent. Once all men were hunters, and our civilization would not be the same if they had not been. Man's evolution - how he organized and communicated - his survival, depended on it. But hunting is not just an episode of the distant past. Today, more than 20-million Americans of all regions and persuasions, of every profession and economic means, men, women and children, are hunters.

The colors of autumn turn now to brown and gold and fluorescent orange. An army in uniform descends everywhere, searching for what may be as true for man today as it was for his ancestors. Whether it's a need, or instinct, or a diversion, many still obey primitive impulses that in autumn bring them back to the land.

COMMERCIAL RADIO ANNOUNCER: IMN serves 91 great stations in the West, including KWSR in Rifle, Colorado. This is the Inter-Mountain Radio Network

COMMERCIAL RADIO ANNOUNCER: Attention, hunters. This is the Buckskin Network.

RADIO PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT: The ethics of hunting can be summed up in one word - respect. Respect for the rights, property and safety of others, as well as respect for. . .

RATHER: It happens everywhere in America, it's only easier to see in the West. What made hunting an American tradition was the idea of democracy and the frontier. It was the pastime of noblemen in Europe, but in America wildlife belonged to every man. Every man had the right to a gun. And today, practically anyone can afford and can get a license to hunt. That makes it big business, too; in everything from licenses to decoys, it is a $2-billion-a-year industry; a half-billion dollars just in guns and ammunition.

WOMAN [in store]: It's .44-magnum bullets.

RATHER: In places like Rifle, Colorado, and here in Utah, hunting is more important to the economy than Christmas. Modern weapons require modern laws. We have had to restrict ourselves to seasons and bag limits, and sometimes to special permits, and even lotteries - to make sure there will be something left to hunt next season. And sometimes, it seems, even that has not been enough.

DRASNIN: How big a buck do you think it'll take to win?

OLD MAN: Christ, you might win it on a little spike this year!

DRASNIN: Why is this?

OLD MAN: Pity, because there's no deer up here. [Laughing]

DRASNIN: What happened to all the deer?

OLD MAN: They killed them off. Anytime you kill the goose that lays-- lays the golden egg, you're done.

DRASNIN: You mean, they've killed so many deer there aren't many left?

OLD MAN: Yeah, that's the trouble of it.

DRASNIN: Who's killed all the deer? How'd that happen?

OLD MAN: All these doggone hunters coming in from all over hell. Yeah. God, they come in here by the hundreds. Too many of them. But you ain't seen nothing. You should have seen what went down the road today, going down this street down here, going down south. Bumper to bumper. Look at them going down there! Bumper to bumper. They've been going that way all day. Yeah, I've lived here all my life. I'm 81 years old this coming Sunday. I was born right here, and I know all about it. I lived up here on the ranch 20 years.

DRASNIN: You think they killed too many deer in this area in the past?

OLD MAN: Yeah, they killed too many of them. They killed these little fawns, you know, and then they'd go-- they'd say, "Oh, that's too little, that's just a jackrabbit," and then they'd go on and just let it lay. And that's the way-- that's the way it's happened. You-- Right up there four or five years ago, you see them little fawn deer laying everywhere. Just shoot them and let them lay. God, you know, you can't-- you can't keep that a going.

DRASNIN: Why do you think people do that?

OLD MAN: I don't know. Just for sport, I guess. I done imagine that's about all it's for, just for sport, but I call it damn poor sport.

DRASNIN: There are places where hunting is more than a fact of life, it is a way of life. In Utah on this Friday, school is out at noon. Classes will not resume until Tuesday. It is the eve of the deer hunting season.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES [Deer Hunters' Ball]: . . .model 700 Remington 270 rifle. That's probably the best ticket shaker in the town, right there.

DRASNIN: In school gymnasiums and National Guard armories, you can win an ice chest, fishing rods, chicken dinners, lube jobs, a pair of boots, or a model 700 Remington rifle with scope. It is the time of the Deer Hunters' Ball.

[Live music group]

Admission - one dollar, fifty cents. Refreshments - bring your own. Dress - hunter's red. That's so hunters can be seen by other hunters. Deer are color blind.

[Live music group]

For centuries there was a mystical quality to the hunt - dances and incantations. Time has not changed entirely the pre-hunt ritual.

[Live music group. . .morning sunrise and gunfire]

There is an image of the hunter: he is an epic character, alone in the wild, matching wits and endurance with wildlife.

[Gunfire]

Hunters are everywhere in these hills and aspen groves. They came here because, in years past, as many as seven of every ten of them left with a deer. This season it was three in ten. State game officials say that's because of an unusually severe winter the year before. Many hunters say it's because too many deer have been shot here in the past. We saw no live deer in Utah this day, or live elk in Colorado. Some hunters did.

HUNTER: You do it once, and then just about the time the feel-- the feeling's fading away it's time to go hunting again, you know. You can't sleep for a week afterwards, you know. Keep thinking about it, you know, how the hunt-- how you chased them and, you know, went through the woods and, you know, it's just-- just a nice feeling.

HUNTER: I'm 62 years old. I've hunted ever since I was old enough to carry a rifle or a shotgun. It's just-- It gets in your blood. It's like gambling or drinking. It gets in your blood.

HUNTER [woman]: I think if any-- if you're good at something you-- that you really enjoy it. It's-- It's being able to do something, and say, "I can do it."

HUNTER: Nature's way is actually very cruel, and the ultimate death of most animals comes cruelly, either via predation or starvation or some form of disease in nature. The hunter's way is actually quite humane.

DRASNIN: The future concerns the hunter, and not just in the West. He is concerned about the survival of his sport, and he spends millions of dollars every year to promote it. In Connecticut, students from 50 schools have been invited here to learn about hunting and shooting.

[Students and teachers, with rifles: "All right, nobody load up after this". . ."Don't-- Don't load that, okay?". . ."Ouch!"]

One thing they can learn is that they don't need a gun. Seven hundred thousand Americans prefer bow and arrow.

Can you kill an animal with just one arrow?

WOMAN ARCHER: Yes, you can. They'll bleed to death. They hemorrhage and bleed. And my husband keeps telling me, "As soon as you get your deer, don't yell, because you'll only scare him off into the woods." But I haven't had the experience, but I had some good misses. A lot of fun. It's really great. You really-- You really get out in that fresh air and that sunshine, and those leaves are turning, and it's beautiful.

[Gunshot]

DRASNIN: Among the biggest promoters of hunting are the National Shooting Sports Foundation, the National Rifle Association and the gun companies. These instructors are from Winchester-Western.

INSTRUCTOR: That's the way. See?

YOUNGSTER: Pull. [Gunshot]

INSTRUCTOR: That's the way. Very good. [Laughing] Go on, try another one. [Gunshot] You were real close.

YOUNGSTER: Pull. [Gunshots]

INSTRUCTOR: Atta boy! You broke it. Okay, is there anybody else who hasn't shot?

DRASNIN: The same thing is happening at the Remington Gun Club in Connecticut, and at sportsmen's clubs and shopping centers throughout the country. By an act of Congress, a day has been set aside to honor the sportsman - National Hunting and Fishing Day.

[Gaggle of flying geese]

RATHER: The modern hunter has a modern reason for his sport and the money that goes into it - conservation. A special tax on guns and ammunition is used by the states for the conservation of wildlife. It is also used to buy land. It is true, as claimed, that the land is used in many ways by non-hunters. It is true that the numbers of some wildlife have increased. But the hunter also needs the land and the wildlife to perpetuate his sport. There is a modern science for this, developed in America, called game management. This is a management area for waterfowl in Pymatuning, Pennsylvania. The State Game Department created a permanent home for thousands of ducks and geese raised here. It is also a feeding ground for thousands more migrating south each year; and a hunting ground for the Pennsylvania sportsman. In autumn there are estimated to be 40,000 ducks and geese in Pymatuning. Management works.

GAME DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL: If I may have your attention again, folks, I want to repeat this morning about the shooting time, this morning at sunrise, and the actual time is 7:26.

DRASNIN: Five o'clock in the morning on the opening day of the waterfowl season.

GAME DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL: We have decoys for rent. The cost is two dollars per dozen, and the rental fee is a. . .

DRASNIN: There are more hunters in Pennsylvania than anywhere else in America. The hunt is supervised by Game Department officials. It is the hunter's money that accounts for more than 40% of Fish and Game Department budgets.

GAME DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL: You want to go down the road this way, the first dirt road to your right. Go down this dirt road to the stop sign, and make another right.

DRASNIN: Management. Conservation. There is a growing tendency to talk about hunting this way. It's not the way most hunters talk about it.

But why does a man get up this time of morning to come out here and hunt?

HUNTER: It's hard to say, man. It's hard to say. It's just something--

HUNTER: Just something you like, that's all.

HUNTER: It's just something, I don't know. I worked eleven to seven the night before last. I didn't get no sleep. I-- I got to come up here, that's all there is to it, you know. I don't think there's a reason. If you enjoy it, you got to do it.

DRASNIN: Think you'll get your limit?

HUNTER: I hope I do. I hope I do.

HUNTER: It's just the sport of hunting. I-- I love to hunt everything. It's-- It's something I like to do.

DRASNIN: What else do you hunt?

HUNTER: Oh, I hunt everything, everything there is.

[Gunfire]

DRASNIN: Neither duck nor goose nor hunter is visible when the shooting begins - a half-hour before the legal starting time.

[Gunfire. . .duck calls]

HUNTER: This is the worst I've ever saw it. It is, this is the worst I ever saw it. Some of these ducks come out of here this morning flying that low you couldn't shoot at them. One guy shot at that one over there, and shot rained all around over here, him flying that low. Guys are crazy. I'm serious.

DRASNIN: Why is that?

HUNTER: Well, people see a-- see something to shoot at, and that's all they can see.

DRASNIN: You say you're lucky if somebody doesn't get shot out here?

HUNTER: When you shoot at these low ones, you are. You know, they come up out of here like that. You shoot at them, you're shooting right out level with-- with the rest of them. If we had shot at two of them that come out of here, we'd have rained shot on you people, that's for sure.

DRASNIN: Is this your boy?

HUNTER: That's my boy.

DRASNIN: Did you teach him how to shoot a gun?

HUNTER: He's a hunter. He got a-- He got a deer last year with a bow and arrow. He's-- He's a pretty good hunter.

DRASNIN: What do you like about hunting?

SON: The outdoors. You get to meet a lot of people.

[Heavy gunfire]

DRASNIN: There is a limit here - four ducks and one goose per hunter per day; eight ducks and six geese per hunter per season. You can shoot more of some species.

WOMAN [Counting geese]: Four men, four geese.

[Gunfire]

Okay, eighteen.

[Intense gunfire]

DRASNIN: That your limit?

HUNTER: No, one more. Run out of shells.

DRASNIN: Ran out of shells? You got three?

HUNTER: Yeah, three hen mallards.

DRASNIN: How-- How long did it take you?

HUNTER: Well, I got these three in about 15 minutes. They're downing them everywhere. Aren't too many wounded ones. They've got a dog here getting them. Not getting away, too many. Well, got to go get some more.

DRASNIN: Geese, especially, are attracted to feed on dry land. The corn provides feed; it also provides cover for geese and for hunters.

[Geese crying. . .gunfire]

HUNTER: Enough? That's enough, I guess.

HUNTER: Pretty big. Pretty good.

HUNTER: Bruce is taking off. [Laughter]

DRASNIN: Autumn is a time of harvest. The hunter sees it that way, too. The objective of game management is to produce annual crops of wildlife that can be harvested like corn.

HUNTER: I don't know. How do you kill them?

HUNTER: Just hang on. It'll die.

HUNTER: They're dead. They're just kicking.

HUNTER: That's all there is to it.

[ANNOUNCEMENTS]

RATHER: Autumn, just beyond the northern rim of the Grand Canyon. The sun rises over a sacred burial ground of the Navajo. Indians were the first to hunt here. Now it is the white man's land.

GAME MANAGER: Small herd over in the east pasture. About four or five.

RATHER: This white man is not a hunter, nor is he a rancher, exactly. In late 20th century America, he is a manager, and what he manages are buffalo.

GAME MANAGER: Must be about 60 to 80 in that herd.

RATHER: In 1875 it's estimated there were 40-million buffalo in America. By the beginning of this century, there were almost none. They were killed for the usual reasons - for profit, for progress and for politics, because without the buffalo the Plains Indian could be forced into submission by the settlers. In 1975, Buffalo are still being killed in America, but for another reason. This is also called game management. Today on the plains of Arizona the buffalo and the white hunter have been reunited.

JOHN RUSSO [Arizona Game Department]: The people that are shooting cows and bulls, we will take you out in the field with us in our vehicle, and you are to listen to what your backer has to say. Do not load your guns until he tells you to. And when he picks out a buffalo for you to shoot, make sure you understand perfectly well which animal it is that you are to kill or to shoot at.

RATHER: Producer Irv Drasnin.

DRASNIN: It is the State of Arizona that owns the buffalo, and only residents of Arizona can kill them. The hunter's name has been selected in a drawing, and everyone whose name is drawn is guaranteed a buffalo.

RUSSO: I know that you're out here to get a buffalo and you're going to be focused on that animal, but your backer's looking all around to make sure that you have a clear shot and do not hit anything that you're not supposed to. Now, if I have any hunters here that are to shoot tomorrow or the next day, and we have time and get ahead, be glad to take you out.

[Voices over radio: "I'm back at the truck again". . ."Okay, Kelly. I got you a real big bull standing out in the burn area up here". . . "503, come on up to the gate. They got a big bull up there in the burn. It's not very far from 814, and maybe we can sneak on up there and shoot him.". . ."Sounds good. We're on the way.". . ."Ten-four."]

DRASNIN: Hunters need a buffalo to join Arizona's exclusive club for sportsmen - the Big Ten. To belong, they must kill ten designated big game animals from wild sheep and turkey to buffalo. The buffalo is a grazing animal that moves in herds, slowly. That's what made it possible for the 19th century commercial hunter to kill as many as 200 in a few hours, and caused a 19th century observer to call it not

a hunt but an execution. The reasons we kill the buffalo have changed, but the method is essentially the same.

COOPER: It looks like they'll run right over us.

RUSSO: We can't move any more.

COOPER: Okay. Are they moving down, or is he staying still?

RUSSO: They're feeding. They're standing still.

COOPER: Let me turn it up on nine.

DRASNIN: Today, you can kill only one buffalo in Arizona in your lifetime. George Cooper's permit is for a cow.

RUSSO: Okay, right-- Hold it. Not now.

COOPER: Damn, damn, damn! She's clearing them. She's the last one.

[Gunshot]

RUSSO: Beautiful, beautiful! Get a shot at her. Go ahead, right in the neck. Go ahead.

[Gunshot]

Don't photograph that, will you, huh?

COOPER: Because.

RUSSO: Because, you see, somebody's going to misconstrue we-- that we shot her mother. That's what happens all the time on these things.

COOPER: Makes it bad. Get the rest of them.

DRASNIN: George Cooper, 32-year-old electrician and Scoutmaster from Tucson, has waited nine years for his name to be drawn for a buffalo. It has taken him less than an hour to get it.

COOPER: That's why I hunt is the excitement. After you get to this point, it's all over. It's, you know, it's-- everything that leads up to this is what's-- what makes it worthwhile. Of course, this is-- this is management, and you have to control the herds, so this is really the, as far as I'm concerned, the best way to do it.

DRASNIN: If you have to manage the herd, why let hunters do it?

WILLIAM SIZER [Arizona Game Department]: Well, it's a case of-- of us doing it, like a bunch of hired guns going in there in a kind of a slaughterhouse operation, which doesn't really appeal to us very much.

The hunters enjoy the experience. It is a true hunt, the way we're doing it now. And by them doing it, they're willing to pay us a pretty fancy fee, which is used to help us maintain the herds.

DRASNIN: What do they pay for a buffalo?

SIZER: Well, they pay $500 for a bull permit, $300 for a cow permit, and 160 bucks for a yearling.

RADIO VOICE: The buffalo is in the burn area. . .

DRASNIN: One theory of game management is that animals must be harvested, killed, to control over-population and prevent starvation and disease. Without management, it's claimed, the buffalo would be extinct. There are 207 buffalo on this range. The managers have decided that these 67,000 acres cannot support that many; 60 must be harvested.

[Gunshot]

How does the hunt this year compare with hunts of years past?

SIZER: It's better from the point of view of the hunter, because this is a hunt. The old way we did it was coldly practical. We had to remove X number of animals from the herd; we brought them in, ran them out of a corral and let the people shoot them.

[Gunfire]

DRASNIN: How do you decide which buffalo are going to be shot?

SIZER: Occasionally it's a selective process, as per the individual, but basically it's a sort of an organized thinning operation: so many bulls, so many cows and so many yearlings - without a great amount of regard for which individual.

DRASNIN: I mean, is it possible, under these conditions, if-- if a man or a woman pays $500 or $300 for a buffalo, they're going to want something to their liking?

SIZER: Sure. It happened just yesterday, in fact. We had a young woman who went out, and we had spotted a lone bull by himself, and from up on the hill it looked like a real good bull. But when she and the Game Department man who was guiding her got up there, her husband was along, and he said, "That's not really a very big bull," and our guy had to agree it was not. So they said, "We don't want that one." As it turned out, about three or four hours later, we were able to put this girl onto a real nice bull, which she collected.

DRASNIN: So it's really buyer's choice?

SIZER: Yeah. We figure if a guy's going to pay 500 bucks, he ought to have a little bit of say as to what he shoots.

DRASNIN: I guess you got your money's worth?

SARA BECK: Sure did. [Laughing] It's going to make a beautiful rug.

DRASNIN: All the more beautiful, because this was the only buffalo in the herd with a white patch on its forehead, a buffalo named Bruno that had been part of a two-year research study.

DRASNIN: Have you hunted before?

SARA BECK: No.

DRASNIN: Why'd you want a buff--?

BECK: Birds. I've hunted quail and dove, but not big game. I don't know. It's something I've always wanted. It's one of the big ten. It's a good start. Tickled to death with this thing.

Did I want to have a foot-- Jim, did I want to have a footstool made out of those?

DRASNIN: Sara Beck is a former stewardess. She is 28 years old and three months pregnant. Her husband, Jim, is a doctor.

JIM BECK: Just fantastic.

SARA: And look at these. Aren't they beautiful?

DRASNIN: Sara, why'd you want a buffalo?

SARA: Because I wanted one of the big ten. Now I've accomplished something. We have a trophy room, and we don't have a buffalo. Have everything else, except a sheep.

DRASNIN: So you need a sheep to be a member of the Big Ten?

SARA: That's right.

DRASNIN: And you say you feel like you've accomplished something?

SARA: Sure do. That's an accomplishment right there.

DRASNIN: Were you excited?

SARA: Yes, I was excited. Wouldn't you be? [Laughs]

DRASNIN: For the hunter who can't wait to make a trophy of his prize, a taxidermist is nearby. A footstool - $85. An ash tray - 22.50. The head of a cow mounted - $175. Boyd Gardner got his buffalo in 1963, and has been coming here ever since.

How did you get into the taxidermy business?

BOYD GARDNER: Well, I figured I was going to be doing a lot of hunting throughout my life, and I wanted to mount my own animals. I didn't have money to have it done by somebody else anyway, so I just sent off and got a-- took a correspondence course.

DRASNIN: You took a correspondence course?

GARDNER: Yeah.

DRASNIN: So you're a hunter yourself?

GARDNER: Yes, I do a lot of hunting.

DRASNIN: What do you hunt?

GARDNER: Oh, anything from doves to-- to buffalo, I guess.

DRASNIN: How does getting the buffalo compare to the other animals?

GARDNER: Well, it was-- it was easier, because you know you're going to get a buffalo.

VOICE OVER RADIO: Eight-fourteen. . .

DRASNIN: You know because, when necessary, the men on horseback can move them toward the hunter, and because the buffalo's movement can also be controlled by opening and closing ten waterholes.

VOICE ON RADIO: You guys can unload your horses and go from there.

DRASNIN: This stray bull was found next to the fence of a waterhole that was closed.

RUSSO: Want to put-- put some shells in your magazine, and we'll sneak around and take a good look at him.

PERKINS: For some reason, I can't make him out.

DRASNIN: You know you're going to get a buffalo, yet there are still unwritten rules about how the game is played: the idea of fair chase between man and animal, even when man knows he cannot lose.

PERKINS: I don't want to take him where that damn fence post would show up in the picture.

RUSSO: No. Think he's big enough? He's a big old one.

PERKINS: You know a lot more about the size of them than I do.

RUSSO: Well, he's a good, respectable bull.

DRASNIN: It is nature's way of management to weed out the worst of a species - the old and the weak. It's man's way to take the best, the trophy.

RUSSO: Let's get a little higher, so you can kneel down. Maybe if you can get up here and shoot through the trees, you know.

PERKINS: In fact, if I take a-- take an ear shot, I'd like to get a rest.

RUSSO: Okay, now, here you go. Take care of him. . .

DRASNIN: Ronald Perkins, 40-year-old owner of a construction company, is about to be one shot closer to joining Arizona's Big Ten club.

[Gunshot]

RUSSO: Beautiful! Okay, reload, reload. Okay, watch him. Get over here, get over here. Take another shot.

[Gunshot]

There you go. Hit just a little low on that first shot.

PERKINS: Yep. Oh, that's a good horn.

RUSSO: I guess. Wait a minute. Just wait. I think you got a real nice animal there.

PERKINS: I think so, too. That's a fine horn. Thank you.

DRASNIN: Some hunters will use the meat, but the white hunter has never shot buffalo primarily for food. He has hunted the buffalo for its hide, and today, in the name of management and sport, he still does.

RUSSO: You going to have a shoulder mount made of him?

PERKINS: Shoulder mount and a rug.

[ANNOUNCEMENTS]

ANNOUNCER: Tonight's broadcast, CBS REPORTS: "The Guns of Autumn", contains scenes of the death of animals that may be disturbing to some members of your family.

RATHER: Man hunts for sport, and he has the trophies to prove it. This is a place once described as a silent zoo. Taxidermy is a 17th century European art and a 20th century American industry. The hunter, whether he's called manager or harvester or sportsman, is a collector. Like other collectors, he is on the lookout for something different - the unusual. To find it, he once had to travel thousands of miles on

safari to Africa or Asia. No more. Now he need go no farther than Texas. There may be more exotic game in and around Kerrville than there are people. Exotic game are animals not native to America, like the Siberian Ibex, a wild goat. It is one of the species being raised here on a special diet and cross-bred for future hunting. This is the Patio Ranch, and this is one of five pastures holding 1500 animals of 16 species. Producer Irv Drasnin.

DRASNIN: Hunters are driven to the pasture of the animal of their choice. To shoot it, they often do not even leave the van. Most hunters like to look first, before selecting their trophy. There is a price list, and the prices range from $250 for a Corsican ram to $1600 for a South African oryx. The game may be sheep, deer, elk or antelope originally imported from Africa, Asia or Europe. The preserve has been called the hunting of the future. Most hunters who come here represent another trend - the use of shooting preserves by corporate managers. The shooting preserve or ranch is, for many American corporations, a retreat, a way to entertain executives and clients. This one is used almost exclusively by the R. J. Reynolds Company.

The Patio Ranch is the oldest preserve of its kind in America. The biggest and best known is the Y. O. The Patio denied CBS News permission to film a typical hunt. The Y. O. refused even to allow cameras inside its gate. In Texas, State game officials say they don't know how many shooting preserves there are. One way to find out in Kerrville is to go to Safariland. Safariland is a dealer in guns, and a booking agent. It can arrange hunts at 15 ranches in this area. According to the owners, the hunting business is better than ever. There are signs of inflation here, but not of recession.

RICHARD GRONA [Hunting guide]: I don't know, but there's been more people I guess in the last two years hunted that never hunted before, never killed anything in their life. And-- And I-- You know, just everybody's different. You ask them and they say, well, they just started some kind of sport, and they started-- they-- they killed one animal and had his head mounted, and that kind of gets the fever, and then you just keep going, and they got to get everything that there is, you know.

DRASNIN: You can have any kind of hunt here?

GRONA: You can have any kind of hunt you want.

DRASNIN: And what do you do if somebody comes to you and says, "I want an easy hunt"?

GRONA: Well, now, we have got, like I say-- like I say, we have got some animals that are not as wild as others. You know, there's always some gentler than others, and we try to, you know, hunt that. We kind of got what a guy wants. If he wants a hard hunt, we'll give him a hard hunt. If he wants an easy one, we can make it easy.

DRASNIN: One way to make it easy is the release hunt - the releasing on order of an animal from a pen or cage. The boars in this pen range in price from two to five hundred dollars. There is no price yet on this mountain lion, but there will be - about $800. It has been caged for four months, and is used now to help train hunting dogs. This is Indian Creek Ranch, where Richard Grona is foreman, and where he also keeps bobcat, available on order. They may be in cages as long as six months to a year. When released for a hunter, they are given a three minute start ahead of the dogs. It usually takes about two hours to find one. The price - $200.

RATHER: The shooting preserve did not originate in America, but it has prospered here. Preserves are in business everywhere: in Vermont and Tennessee, Iowa and Nebraska, Pennsylvania and New Mexico. Some preserves are more exotic than others. At the Ponderosa Buffalo and Wildlife Ranch in Oregon, you can shoot the yakalo, a cross between a buffalo and a yak, and the zonie, a cross between a zebra and a Welsh pony. Nor is the preserve limited to only exotics or big game. At Gameland in Iowa there is also partridge for four dollars, quail for two. For birds and waterfowl, there are about 3,000 shooting preserves. No one seems to know how many preserves there are for big game animals. The estimates run as high as one or two hundred. CBS News has located 86. They may differ in size, in variety of game, or in cost, but their operation is about the same. So is their reluctance to allow a hunt to be filmed. We asked several, but only one said yes, Louie's Shooting Preserve and Hunt Club. Producer Irv Drasnin.

DRASNIN: This is not the Texas hill country. This is a one hour drive from downtown Detroit. The suburbs. At practically every preserve, a successful hunt is guaranteed. The policy is: No kill, no pay. It must be assumed that a preserve could not stay in business long if the guarantee could not be met. In his ten years here, Louis Ruggirello says he's never had a dissatisfied customer.

DRASNIN: What are the chances of getting an animal or a good trophy here, compared with getting a good trophy in the wild, in a public hunting area?

LOUIS RUGGIRELLO: The chances are-- Your percentage of chances are, I'd say, 75 more percent chance of getting them in a shooting preserve than you are in the wild, because I raise these animals, these trophy animals, to be hunted, and they're out there roaming, and with a good guide and a good hunter that knows what he's doing and knows how to shoot good, his percentages are way up there - in the nineties.

MAN: I don't see that pony tail.

DRASNIN: No vehicle is needed at Louie's. There is less than one square mile of fenced-in land holding 500 animals. It can be covered in less than two hours on foot. It doesn't have to be autumn on a preserve. Hunting goes on every day of the year. It is always open season on exotics.

CASEY: Let's go for-- I guess we'll go for his first.

DAN: We'll go for his, and when we see them white-tails, I want to take a good look at them.

CASEY: I want to get my. . .

DRASNIN: No license is required, and there is no bag limit.

DAN: I'll take a white-tail, if they're nice. I just want to-- I want to look at them first.

DRASNIN: Not every hunter will go to a preserve, but hundreds of thousands do use preserves of all kinds, and their number is growing.

DAN: Yeah. These white deer, John, how do they run? They run a pretty big rack?

DRASNIN: It is said that the hunter is a gambler, and like all gamblers he wants to reduce the odds. The preserve does that. The hunter doesn't have to take his chances here; he can take his pick.

DAN: Yeah. I wouldn't take any smaller.

CASEY: That one looks like a nice size.

DRASNIN: It has been ten minutes since the hunters entered the preserve.

[Gunshot]

JOHN [Guide]: Good shot.

DAN: Got him in the front legs, Case.

CASEY: Huh?

DAN: You got him in the front legs.

CASEY: It should be right behind the front shoulder.

DAN: Right behind the shoulder. He's starting to go down. There he goes. You got him. Nice shot, Case.

CASEY: Boy, that looks like a big deer.

DAN: Yeah, I'd say that's a good-size deer.

DRASNIN: The deer is a Manitoba buck, a big white-tail from Canada. It costs $450.

CASEY: Right through the gut. . .

DAN: Nice shooting, Case.

CASEY: Yeah.

DAN: That's a good-sized animal.

JOHN: You got to finish him off. . .

CASEY: No, you might mess up the head, though, huh?

DRASNIN: There is a hunting ethic that calls for as clean and as quick a kill as possible to prevent suffering by the animal. It also prevents damage to the trophy.

[Gunshot]

CASEY: That's not the good part to watch. Let's go take a look at the white-tail.

DAN: Yeah, I'll take a look at them fallow on the way,. just to see which one looks the best.

CASEY: See, that one's a nice rack. It's not as heavy as I thought it was, and it's not, you know, perfectly formed or anything like that. I was hoping to get a nice eight- or ten-point white-tail. He's got a real nice rack. This is my Christmas present.

DAN: You sure find out in how good a shape you're in, don't you?

CASEY: It's only money. Yeah.

DRASNIN: Preserve animals have been raised inside fences. The sight and sound and smell of human predators is not necessarily a signal of danger.

CASEY: Oops! Just look at this deer sitting right there.

DAN: Yeah. A doe.

CASEY: See if I can take a picture of that. [Sounds to attract the deer's attention] Beautiful.

Well, maybe he's got something back there, huh? That one's a nice size one, too. Look at him. Hmm, they're having a party out there. There's a pretty picture.

DRASNIN: They are now looking for the white fallow deer of Europe, once hunted only inside the royal forest. Today it costs $425.

CASEY: Look at this fallow, running right down the road, coming right for us.

DAN: A little hard trying to take a shot with all of them together like that.

DRASNIN: From the time they started looking, it has been 13 minutes.

[Gunshot]

CASEY: Beautiful.

[Gunfire]

DAN: It hit right in the chest, yeah. Yeah.

CASEY: Like taking target practice.

DAN: Oh, I put the first one right in the white of the chest. Hit him high.

JOHN: Oh, man, he's wrapped up in barbed wire.

CASEY: Oh, he's been in that barbed wire, or did he just get it now?

DAN: Maybe that's why he was bucking, he just picked it up.

JOHN: Yeah, he picked it up way over--

DAN: Want to hand me your gun, or you want to hit him? You want to finish him or--?

JOHN: No, go ahead. Right there between the legs, I guess, is--

DAN: Right in here?

JOHN: Yeah.

[Gunshot]

CASEY: Oh, that's the shoulder. Dan, you just put it in the shoulder, didn't he?

DAN: That do it or not? Should we hit him again?

CASEY: Hold on a minute.

JOHN: Let me get that wire off of him.

CASEY: Oh, yeah.

DAN: Yeah, that doesn't look too sporting. Hit him again. You know where to hit him.

[Gunshot]

CASEY: I think he had that wire on him for a while.

JOHN: No, we didn't see that wire on him last week.

DAN: No, it wasn't dragging. I had him on the scope. Yeah, that's when he started bucking.

JOHN: That thing don't want to die.

DAN: He's just about had it.

[Gunshot]

JOHN: If that don't do it, I don't know what will.

CASEY: That's not going in the heart, though, is it?

JOHN: Yeah, pretty close to it.

DAN: That's a bad picture. Hey, John, he's getting up!

CASEY: That's beautiful.

DAN: Now, I want-- I want the head, John.

JOHN: Yeah, I know. It won't-- It won't hurt the head at all.

DAN: Are you sure?

JOHN: Yeah.

[Gunshot]

DAN: Okay, John.

CASEY: Here, take your gun.

DAN: I don't believe this!

CASEY: He just don't want to die. Five shots.

DAN: Three.

CASEY: Dan, congratulations.

DAN: Thank you.

CASEY: Nice shooting. I like how you crippled him, you know. You didn't want to ruin the meat.

[Laughter]

CASEY: Yeah, get down. He looks bigger than that deer. [Laughs] Show his rack. Get them underneath there. That's it. Now, get your hands behind it, behind the palms, you-- that you're covering with your shoulder. That's it. Just get it behind, and then push it to me a little bit. That's it. Get one more here.

JOHN: Let me put his gut out in front here. Yeah, it sure smells.

RATHER: We could not film every bird or animal hunted in America, but the list is a long one. A state by state survey revealed these to be some of the latest harvest figures for one season:

deer - more than two million;
elk - almost 100,000;
antelope - 77,000;
bear - more than 17,000;
squirrel - thirty-one-and-a-half million;
rabbit - twenty-seven million;
duck - eleven million;
goose - one-and-a-half million;
upland game birds - more than ninety-four million.

These figures are incomplete. Some states do not keep count. There is no count, either, of the different ways men hunt: on foot or in vehicles; alone or in groups; in ways old and new.

This autumn is another season. The managers will make their decisions. State game officials will carry them out, and again some 20-million Americans will return to the land to harvest the crop.

[ANNOUNCEMENTS]

ANNOUNCER: This broadcast was produced under the supervision and control of CBS News.